

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: SCUL (AMBASSADOR KAUL CONVERSATION)

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR KAUL CONVERSATION WITH ASSISTANT
SECRETARY RICHARDSON

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM RICHARDSON

REF: NEW DELHI 6744

1. WE GREATLY APPRECIATED YOUR COMMENTS ON OUR TELEGRAPHIC
REPORT OF KAUL' S JUNE 5 VISIT. BY NOW YOU WILL HAVE PROB-
ABLY RECEIVED THE MORE DETAILED MEMCON; MEANWHILE HERE ARE
A FEW OF OUR INITIAL REACTIONS TO YOUR COMMENTS.

2. WE HAVE ALWAYS RECOGNIZED THAT OUR EDUCATIONAL AND
CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM HAS TO REST ESSENTIALLY ON QUALITY,
NOT QUANTITY. THE SELECTION SYSTEM, INDEED THE WHOLE PRO-
GRAM CONCEPT, IS GEARED IN THIS DIRECTION- EVEN THOUGH SUC-
CESS STILL SOMETIMES ELUDES US, WE BELIEVE THE PROGRAM CON-
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TINUES TO WARRANT THE REPUTATION FOR EXCELLENCE IT ENJOYS IN MOST COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD. ONE REASON FOR THIS HAS BEEN, AND REMAINS, THE BOARD OF FOREIGN SCHOLARSHIP WHICH INSULATES THE USG FROM THE PROCESS OF SELECTION IF NOT FROM POLICY DIRECTION AND PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION. THUS WHILE WE AGREE WITH YOUR FEELING THAT GOVERNMENTAL INHIBITIONS IN FREEDOM OF ACADEMIC CHOICE SHOULD BE HELD TO A MINIMUM, WE RECOGNIZE A CONTINUING ROLE FOR THE BUREAUCRACY IS NECESSARY.

3. MUCH COULD BE SAID ABOUT THE SUBJECT OF DISCIPLINES AND HOW A MIX MOST ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH NATIONS IS ACHIEVED. IN GENERAL WE SHARE YOUR CONCERN ON THIS SUBJECT, AND WHILE SOME MEANS MIGHT BE DEVELOPED TO FOCUS SCHOLARLY INTEREST ON A WIDER VARIETY OF SUBJECTS, AT PRESENT WE SEE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO CONTINUE TO ATTEMPT TO CLEAR QUALIFIED AMERICAN RESEARCHERS AND STUDENTS IN THE FIELDS OF THEIR CHOICE.

4. REGARDING YOUR VIEWS ON USEFI, WE CONCUR BUT WANT TO GIVE MORE THOUGHT TO THE CONCEPT OF ROTATING CHAIRMANSHIP. FOR EXAMPLE, THE KIND OF US PARTICIPATION THE LAW REQUIRES IN PROGRAM SUPERVISION, WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE MORE DIFFICULT WITH THE DEPARTURE OF THE AMERICAN DIRECTOR, WOULD BECOME MORE BURDENSOME AND REQUIRE MORE USIS STAFF TIME IN THE YEARS WHEN AN INDIAN WAS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD.

5. WE DESIRE TO AVOID A FORMAL CULTURAL AGREEMENT WITH THE GOI BUT RECOGNIZE THAT INDIANS MAY PRESS THIS APPROACH ON US. THE AMERICAN ACADEMIC COMMUNITY, WE BELIEVE, WOULD PREFER TO RIDE WITH THE PRESENT GUIDELINES AND SEE HOW MUCH FLEXIBILITY IS IN THEM AND, AS REQUIRED, SEEK MODIFICATION. A LOT OF FLEXIBILITY MAY BE SIGNED AWAY IN AN AGREEMENT. I HOPE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE NSF AGREEMENT OF 1967 WILL NOT BE SEEN BY INDIANS AS A DESIRABLE MODEL, FOR IT ESSENTIALLY IS DESIGNED FOR A SHORT TERM PROGRAM ONLY.

6. JIM ROACH HAS AGAIN BROACHED TO US QUESTION OF WHETHER NOW MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME TO REVIVE THE USEFI PROPOSAL FOR AN ACADEMIC SUMMIT MEETING WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY PUT FOR-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WARD LAST SUMMER. YOU MIGHT WISH TO REVIEW PREVIOUS CORRESPONDENCE ON THIS SUBJECT. ROACH HAS INDICATED HE INTENDS TO RAISE IT AGAIN WITH US FORMALLY AND WE WILL SOLICIT YOUR VIEWS AS SOON AS HIS LETTER IS RECEIVED.

7. WE POUCHED COPIES OF EXISTING CULTURAL AGREEMENTS THE USG HAS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES TO HAZLETT APRIL 16. IN ADDI-

TION, WE HAVE GIVEN THE HUNGARIANS AN INITIAL DRAFT BUT HAVE HAD NO REPLY IN ALMOST A YEAR. A SIMILAR DRAFT IS BEING PROPOSED FOR THE CZECHS. THESE DRAFTS ARE AN ATTEMPT TO GAIN ACCEPTANCE OF UMBRELLA TYPE AGREEMENTS WHICH ARE NOT AS RESTRICTIVE IN DETAILS AS THE AGREEMENTS WITH RUSSIA AND ROMANIA. EXPERIENCE SHOWS THAT THE LATTER TWO AGREEMENTS TIE UP OUR BUDGETS AND PRODUCE THE USUAL ANOMALIES (SUCH AS YOU MENTION) WHICH EXIST IN THE SCIENCE VERSUS HUMANITIES EQUATION. THIS OFTEN LEADS TO NUMEROUS BLOC STUDENTS HERE AND VERY FEW AMERICANS THERE.

8. KAUL' S REFERENCE TO EXCHANGE OF CULTURAL DELEGATIONS WE BELIEVE TO BE UNREALISTIC AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW THEY COULD BE CARRIED OUT EVEN IF WE WERE IN FAVOR OF SUCH A SCHEME.

9. KAUL WAS REALLY QUITE VAGUE ON FILMS. WE LIMITED OURSELVES TO POINTING OUT THE OBVIOUS FACT THAT WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH A PRIVATE FILM INDUSTRY.

10. WE ARE HIGHLY PLEASED WITH YOUR INTENTION TO DEVOTE EARLY ATTENTION TO THE USG/ GOI CULTURAL EXCHANGE SITUATION. YOUR REASSESSMENT WILL BE ESSENTIAL IN FORMULATING OUR RESPONSE TO KAUL' S PROPOSALS.

11. UNFORTUNATELY, HEMSING HAD DEPARTED FOR INDIA BEFORE RECEIPT OF YOUR COMMENTS. ROGERS

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